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Reveal Secret Testimony In U.S. Far East Policy

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WASHINGTON — The first details regarding highly secret testimony that has lain dormant in a Senate file for more than 20 years have been made available exclusively to this correspondent.

This testimony involves the origin and whole thrust of America's foreign policy concerning the Far East, with particular application to what is taking place just now.

The still secret details are particularly vital at this time for a number of reasons including the fact that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has recently released testimony given as long ago as December of 1945 by proponents of the pro-Mao Tse Tung China policy.

THE DOOR was opened when Marquis Childs in a syndicated column in the Washington Post of Feb. 8, declared that "the right wing" was seeking to discredit President Nixon's journey to Red China. Childs wrote:

"One such expedient is to release the testimony, which is still labeled top-secret after 20 years, of John Paton Davies."

Davies was dismissed from the Foreign Service in 1954 in a security risk case. He was the first career officer ever fired.

A TUG of war of historic potential is taking place in Washington between those who see no reason to keep this documentation secret after all these years, and those in the State Department who are determined to keep these facts concealed.

The testimony, given to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in 1959, is that of Edward Hunter, editor and publisher of Tactics Magazine; and Wyle Munson, who heads the Bookmailer, a book publishing and distributing company in Linden, N.Y.

Both men were with the psychological warfare section of the Central Intelligence Agency involved in Far East matters, when they gave Congressional testimony which helped lead to Davies dismissal.

with Hunter's testimony parallels in real life the dramatic exploits in cloak and dagger style of James Bond, the fictional hero of British intelligence.

This concerns the manner in which the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee obtained Hunter's testimony.

Breaking silence publicly for the first time concerning his involvement in the case, Hunter described how he and Munson were called to the State Department late in 1949 to confer with Davies, then head of the Department's Policy Planning section.

This was on the eve of Hunter's departure for the Far East where he analyzed the psychological warfare situation for the CIA and is believed to have been engaged in psychological warfare operations against the Communists in Asia.

WHAT DAVIES told Munson and Hunter was that he wanted them to recommend the setting up of a project to be known as "the Tawny Pipit Project."

This referred to the establishment in New York City, under utmost secrecy, of a small staff of so-called China experts who would draw up projects and help to set policy for the United States on the Far East.

Davies listed the staff that was to compose the completely secret office which would operate ostensibly as an independent research group for the CIA but also operate with the State Department on Far East policy matters.

The personnel to become involved in the Tawny Pipit project, to the shock of Hunter and Munson, contained outright Communist agents such as Agnes Smedley and Anna Louise Strong.

ANOTHER was Edgar Snow, who died Tuesday. Snow, a poet, was a friend of Mao Tse-Tung and other Red Chinese leaders. There were also others of similar views: Benjamin K. Schwartz, who was connected with a special research project on Far Eastern Affairs at Harvard, and Prof. John K. Fairbank of Harvard and his wife Wilma.

Since Hunter went abroad, Munson was left in the United States where he carried the ball in disclosing the Davies plan to higher authorities in government.

He did so through channels inside the CIA, through the FBI and to Congress.

MUNSON'S testimony received sensational press treatment. He was denounced as a fabricator and accused of making up the Davies story out of whole cloth.

The entire cacaphony of so-called "liberal" and pro-Red orchestration was called into play against him, finally driving him out of government.

ADVANTAGE was taken of the fact that there must be at least two witnesses in any accusation and Munson's word alone was legally insufficient. Munson declared that confirmation could be obtained from Mr. Hunter, but where was Hunter?

Hunter was nowhere to be found and so Munson was left out on a limb, at least to all appearances.

Members of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee were told by CIA that Hunter was engaged in super top secret operations somewhere in Asia and no one really knew where he was.

THE CIA ADDED, in complete confidence, of course, that any effort to locate Hunter could "blow his cover" and possibly destroy the very vital covert operations in which he was engaged and result in serious injury to him or death.

Hunter knew nothing about

these developments. But meanwhile, he was being contacted in various places throughout Asia, extending from Hong Kong to Afghanistan, by secret agents and other State Department emissaries who always repeated the same performance.

They would ask Hunter to recall what took place at the State Department meeting with Davies. Then, when he did so, they would try to get him either to promise to forget about the meeting or to deny that any such conference ever took place.

HUNTER recalled that a State Department agent had told him, "But surely, there is no real need for you to remember certain details. After all, you have to think of your own future. You are not really being asked to fabricate anything that didn't happen or to lie."

"All that is really needed, and beyond which you have no responsibility, is just not to go into certain controversial details. You don't have to remember them."

But Hunter consistently refused "to forget."

ULTIMATELY Hunter was recalled to the United States. The trip home was uneventful, until he reached then-Idlewild Airport in New York. While his baggage was being opened, a customs agent came up and asked him, "are you Mr. Hunter, Edward Hunter?"

"Yes," Hunter replied. "Would you please follow me?" the customs man asked.

Then the customs agent ushered Hunter into a large room in the Pan American building where he was suddenly confronted with one of the most extraordinary Congressional scenes that could be imagined.

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